

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Arnold

(916) 653-7090

Fall and Winter Wildlife Festivals in California State Parks

This fall, a number of California State Parks will have festivals highlighting California wildlife. The festivals include:

Monterey Bay Bird Festival, October 5 – 7

The Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and Moss Landing State Beach near Monterey are the locations for this festival. Thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl fly along the Pacific Flyway during their annual migration south. Visitors will learn how to identify a variety of gulls, terns, shorebirds, waterfowl and seabirds. For more information, call (831) 761-1719 or visit online www.elkhornslough.org.

American River Salmon Festival, October 13 – 14

Lake Natoma and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area are participating in this celebration of the return of the king salmon to the area with over 30 educational, recreational, culinary, artistic and cultural activities. For more information, call (916) 361-8700 or visit online www.salmonfestival.net.

Welcome Back Monarch Festival, October 14

Natural Bridges State Beach in Santa Cruz celebrates a 20-year tradition with this welcome for returning Monarch butterflies to the area. Visitors have the opportunity to learn about the butterflies' incredible journey and the importance of this prime resting area. For more information, call (800) 833-3494 or visit online www.santacruzca.org.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 18 – 21, 2002

Morro Bay State Park and Morro Strand State Beach join in this annual celebration. Visitors have the opportunity to see some of the 200-plus bird species in the area's nationally-known birding area on the Pacific Flyway. For more information, call (800) 231-0592 or visit online www.morro-bay.net/birds.

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San Diego Bird Festival, February 7 – 10, 2002

California State Parks in the San Diego area are participating in this celebration of the diversity of Southern California habitats and wildlife. Visitors will have the opportunity to take field trips to see natural, up-close views of more than 170 bird species. For more information, call (619) 429-5378 or visit online www.flite-tours.com/festival.htm.

Salton Sea International Birding Festival, February 15 – 18, 2002

Salton Sea State Recreation Area is the focus of a festival at the Barbara Worth County Club in Holtville. Visitors to the event can learn about the Salton Sea and the arid habitats that host more than 10 bird species in the area. For more information, call (760) 344-5FLY or online www.imperialcounty.com/birdfest.

Mendocino Whale Festival, March 2 – 3, 2002

California State Parks in the Mendocino area will participate in this annual celebration of the amazing comeback of the California gray whale from its decline only 25 years ago. Visitors will have the opportunity for excellent whale-watching opportunities. For more information, call (800) 726-2780 or online www.mendocinocoast.com.

Wild on Wetlands Weekend, March 9 – 10, 2002

Visitors can discover the Grasslands Ecological Area in the Central Valley – including Great Valley Grasslands State Park and San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area – and view many migrating bird species as well as rare vernal pool plants. For more information, call (800) 336-6354 or visit online www.losbanos.com/wow.htm.

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